

Press Release

To: Arkansas Media
From: Robert J. Alvey, Communications Manager
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CC: Governor's Office
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 1999
Re: March meeting of the Authority Board of Directors

Board Approves Grants, \$350,000 in Loans; Accepts Technology Transfer Funding

The Board of Directors for the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority approved two loans totaling \$350,000, passed resolutions that ensure continued state-based research, and accepted technology transfer grants for seven Arkansas-based companies.

The Board accepted the Authority's **Technology Transfer Assistance Grant** (TTAG) awards to the following Arkansas-based companies:

1. Washday Laundromat, Gamaliel	\$3,162.00
2. Audio Access Inc., Little Rock	\$2,500.00
3. North American Marine Jet, Benton	\$2,500.00
4. Arkansas Microelectronics Development Company, Fayetteville	\$2,691.29
5. Vision Quest Bioimaging Inc., Little Rock	\$3,025.00

Additionally, the Board accepted two ISO 9002 TTAG projects through its **Manufacturing Extension Network** (Network) project:

1. Cloud Corporation, Harrison	\$3,750.00
2. Garreco Inc., Heber Springs	\$3,750.00

The Authority's TTAG program provides limited financial support for the transfer and deployment of innovative technology. The Authority will fund up to \$3,750 of costs associated with transferring new or

existing technology from a qualified applicant, such as a public or private enterprise, laboratory, college or university, to an Arkansas-based enterprise.

<http://www.state.ar.us/asta/ttag.html>

*The **Network**, in conjunction with eight partners, provides comprehensive technical and management assistance through the coordination and integration of existing resource providers with new statewide capabilities.*

<http://www.state.ar.us/asta/network.html>

\$300,000 Seed Capital Loan is Approved

The Board approved one **Seed Capital Investment Program (SCIP)** proposal for Ultima Group of Hardy. The company sought and received approval of a secured loan. Its initial capitalization requires a maximum investment of \$1,669,024 of which a maximum of \$300,000 is provided by the Authority, \$200,537 from stockholders equity, and \$1,169,024 of financing from other sources.

SCIP can provide working capital to help support the initial capitalization or expansion of technology-based companies located in Arkansas. The program can provide working capital up to one-fourth (25 percent) or \$500,000 of the company's total financing needs, whichever is less. Investments made by the SCIP fund can be repaid through a variety of instruments, including direct loans, participation and royalties.

<http://www.state.ar.us/asta/seed.html>

Board Awards \$50,000 Loan to Vision Quest Bioimaging

The Board approved one Technology Development Program (TDP) investment under Resolution 99-26. Vision Quest Bioimaging, Little Rock, was approved for funding not to exceed \$50,000 for its Transmembrane Imaging Neuroendoscope, project.

TDP provides royalty financing for qualified projects possessing a well developed, comprehensive project plan, and which utilizes the benefits of science and technology to provide economic and employment growth potential in Arkansas.

<http://www.state.ar.us/asta/tdp.html>

The Board approved two **Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)** additional matching grants:

1. "Formation of an Arkansas Center for Membrane Transport" by Dr. Michael Jennings of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, in the amount not to exceed \$10,717.53.
2. "Formation of a Center for Ultra-Fast Electronic-Photonic Material and Devices" by Dr. Gregory J. Salamo of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, in the amount not to exceed \$10,717.54.

*The National Science Foundation (NSF) established **EPSCoR** in response to congressional concerns about geographical inequities in the distribution of federal research and development dollars. From 1991 to 1998, Arkansas received a total of \$20.8 million in funding from agencies for their respective EPSCoR programs.*

<http://www.state.ar.us/asta/epscor.html>

The Board approved one **Applied Research Grant Program** project, Proposal No. 99-A-06:

- "Development of Integrated Passive Components," by Dr. J. Patrick Parkerson of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, in the amount not to exceed \$39,808.00. This project is cosponsored by Arkansas Microelectronics Development Corporation (AMDC) in the amount of \$23,000.00.

***Applied Research** is a (50-50) cash-matching grant program to support applied research in science and engineering. The goal of the applied research grant program is to stimulate the transfer of science and technology in Arkansas by enhancing opportunities for research partnerships between Arkansas colleges and universities, and private industries.*

<http://www.state.ar.us/asta/applied.html>

The next scheduled Board meeting is May 21. Location and schedule details will be provided at a later date.

The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority serves as a statewide funding resource for high quality scientific and technological projects. The Authority endeavors to bring the benefits of science and technology to the people and state of Arkansas through scientific research, technology development, business innovation, and education.